

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151970

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY IO/SCT-MR. CAVANAUGH

APPROVED BY IO/SCT-MR. CANANAUGH

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R 271907Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 3221 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BERN

PRETORIA VIENNA DATED 25 JUN 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG NL SF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US-DUTCH SWISS SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH
AFRICA

1. DURING A JUNE 24 CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM FONOFF STATE SECRETARY KOOIJMANS MENTIONED THAT AN UNSEPCIFIED DUTCH FIRM WAS INVOLVED WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC AND AN UNSPECIFIED SWISS FIRM IN A PROSPECTIVE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA. AS FAR AS THE NETHERLANDS WAS CONCERNED, THE PROPOSED DEAL WOULD BE "TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE" AND GENERATE LOTS OF EMPLOYMENT. KOOIJMANS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE MAJOR POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS TO PARTICIPATING IN THE SALE SINCE NUCLEAR POWER IS A SUPER-SENSUBIVE SUBJECT HERE AND THE PRESENT SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME IS ANATHEMA TO VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

2. KOOIJMANS INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSED SALE WAS NOW BEFORE HIS MINISTRY FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION, IT HAVING ALREADY
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CLEARED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WHICH DULY NOTED

THE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES. KOOIJMANS SAID FRANKLY THAT IT WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP IN "SELLING" THE DEAL TO THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION IF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA WOULD EITHER GIVE A COMMITMENT TO RATIFY THE NPT EXPEDITIOUSLY OR FOLLOW THE US EXAMPLE AND SIGNIFY ITS ACCEPTANCE OF MORE STRINGENT SAFEGUARDS THAN THOSE REQUIRED BY THE IAEA. HE ASKED IF US AUTHORITIES HAD ANY INFORMATION RE SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS ON THIS POINT. DCM SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE AND LET KOOIJMANS KNOW.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OR PRETORIA CAN PROVIDE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS RE NPT AND SAFEGUARDS AND HOW USG VIEWS THE PROPOSED SALE. EMBASSY BERN MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON EXTENT OF SWISS INVOLVEMENT, WHICH KOOIJMANS SAID CREATED NO PROLBMES FOR THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

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INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE151970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. CAVANAUGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750225-1149
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975068/aaaaahbe.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED US-DUTCH SWISS SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: ENRG, NL, SF, US
To: IAEA VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006